BLACK AUGUST

ORIGINS, HISTORY, AND SIGNIFIGANCE

Black August Origins, History, and Significance
First Edition August 2004 - 100 copies
Compiled and Published by The Books 4 Prisoners Crew

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HISTORY OF BLACK AUGUST CONCEPT AND PROGRAM

Black August originated in the California penal system in the 1970s. Many significant events in the New African Nation's struggle for justice and liberation have occurred in August. The commemoration of Black August particularly hails the advances and sacrifices of Black Freedom Fighters.

Following are several pages of authentic information on Black August provided by Doc Holiday, an original comrade of George Jackson and a longtime figure in the Black Liberation and prison struggle. Doc is presently in prison in Marion, Illinois.

The month of August gained special significance and importance in the Black Liberation Movement beginning with a courageous attempt by Jonathan Jackson to demand the freedom of political prisoners/prisoners of war which the Soledad Brothers' case were the center of attention.

On August 7, 1970 Jonathan Jackson, William Christmas, James McClain, and Ruchell Magee were gunned down outside the Marin County Courthouse.

Ruchell Cinque Magee remains the sole survivor of that bid for liberation, he also remains a POW at Folsom prison doing life. Though this rebellion was put down by gory pigs and their agents it was internalized within the hearts and minds of the people on the outside in the larger prison as well as those in the concentration camps (prison), internalized in the same fashion as we honor other heroic African Freedom Fighters, who sacrificed their lives for the people and the liberation.

On August 21, 1971, almost exactly a year following the slave rebellion at Marin County Courthouse, George L. Jackson (older brother of Jonathan Jackson as well as one of the Soledad Brothers) whose freedom was the primary demand of the Marin rebellion, was assassinated at San Quentin prison in an alleged escape put forth by prison administration and the state to cover its conspiracy. Comrade George Jackson was a highly respected and purposely influential leader in the Revolutionary Prison Movement. Jackson was also very popular beyond prison, not only because he was a Soledad Brother, but also because of the book he authored appropriately entitled "Soledad Brother." This book not only revealed to the public the inhumane and degrading conditions in prison, he more importantly, correctly pointed to the real cause of those effects in prison as well as in society, a decadent Capitalist system that breeds off racism and oppression.

On August 1, 1978 brother Jeffery "Khatari" Gualden, a Black Freedom Fighter and Prisoner of War, captured within the walls of San Quentin was a victim of a blatant assassination by capitalist-corporate medical politics. Khatari was another popular and influential leader in the Revolutionary Prison Movement.

An important note must be added here and that is, the Black August Concept and Movement that it is part of and helping to build is not limited to our sisters and brothers that are currently captured in the various prison Kamps throughout California. Yet without a doubt it is inclusive of these sisters and brothers and moving toward a better understanding of the nature and relationship of prison to oppressed and colonized people.

So it should be clearly understood that Black August is a reflection and commemoration of history; of those heroic partisans and leaders that realistically made it possible for us to survive and advance to our present level of liberation struggle. People such as: Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, Gabril Prosser, Frederick Douglas, W.E. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, Paul Roberson, Rosa Parks, M.L. King, Malcolm X, and numerous others in our more contemporary period. It must be further clarified that when we speak of "Culture Development," we are not advocating Cultural Nationalism and/or merely talking about adopting African names, jewellery, dashikis, etc. Our primary interest lies not only in where we came from, but the nature of "WHY" we were forcefully brought here, understanding the character of "CONTINUOUS" struggle with the recognition that it is a Protracted struggle and developing the necessary lifestyles to guarantee its success.

August 20, 1619—First born Afrikan captives were brought to England's North Amerikan colony of Jamestown, Virginia.

August 16, 1768—Charlestown, South Carolina rebellious Afrikan slaves (known as maroons) engaged British military forces in bloody battle defending their camp which was a haven for fugitive slaves.

August 21, 1791—Haiti slave uprising for independence.

August 30, 1800—Day set for launching Gabrier Prossers revolt. On this day over 1000 armed slaves gathered to endeavor to secure their liberty, however bad weather forced them to postpone the revolt and betrayal ultimately led to the crushing of their physical force.

August 21, 1831—Slave revolt launched under the leadership of Nat Turner which lasted four days and resulted in fifty-one slaveholders and their loved ones being subjected to revolutionary People's justice.

August 29, 1841—Street skirmish took place in Cincinnati between Afrikan and Euro-Amerikan, wherein for five days Afrikans waged valiant struggle in defense of their women, children and property against brutal racist terror campaigns.

August 14, 1842—There were at least three Seminole US wars and one of them ended on August 14, 1842. Though some will ask, what does an Indian American war have to do with Black August? Well that's because the nature of the Seminole's and the real reasons behind their raging wars with the Americans is hidden beneath the mists of history. The very name Seminole derives from the American Spanish term for

escapee, refugee or runaway. It stems from the term Semeron, which was used by the Spanish to denote Indian or African runaways from slavery. The English in Jamaica called their runaways maroons from the same root word. The Seminoles were once part of the Creek Confederacy, but unlike many of their contemporaries they forge close and lasting relationships with runaway Africans and habitually refuse British and American demands for the return of slaves to white service. The American general who fought in the Seminole wars, Thomas Jessup, put the question squarely when he declared, this, you may be assured, is a Negro not an Indian war. General Jessup wrote those words because of the hundreds of black warriors fighting on the side of the Seminoles and because the Seminoles refused to sell men, women and children who had become their kinfolk. It is noteworthy that of all the Indian wars fought against the Americans the Seminole wars cost the most American casualties. ★

August 22, 1843—Henry Highland Garnett called a general slave strike.

August 2, 1850 —Underground Railroad started.

August 1854 —Delegates from eleven states met in Cleveland at the National Emigration Convention of the Colored People, to advance the position that an independent land base (nation) be set up for the absorption of captive Afrikans in Babylon who wanted to return to Afrika.

August 1, 1856—North Carolina, fierce battle erupted between fugitive slaves and slaveholders who sought their capture and re-enslavement. Only recorded casualties was among slaveholders.

August 30, 1856—When the name of John Brown (a white man) is evoked the shadow of Harper's Ferry arises in the mind. Of the small group of rebels who tried, unsuccessfully, to seize an American armory and ferment rebellion among the slaves. But years before Harper's Ferry, John Brown had waged war against pro-slavery forces in Osawatomie, Kansas, after Missourians had sacked the town of Lawrence, Kansas some three months earlier. The fighting in Kansas led to excited reports about bleeding Kansas. What they were tough, nasty border wars between anti and pro-slavery forces. Each trying to dominate the other. Indeed, Brown was called Osawatomie Brown before Harper's Ferry marked him as a martyr for the sacred cause of freedom. ★

August 1860 —Freedom (slave) conspiracy uncovered with the discovery of an organized camp of Afrikans and Euro-Amerikan co-conspirators in Talladega County, Alabama.

August 2, 1865 —Virginia a statewide conference of fifty Afrikan delegates met to demand that Afrikans in Virginia be granted legal title to land occupied during the Civil War. Numerous off-pitch battles ensued during this same month as terrorist mobs moved to evict Afrikans from the land and were met with resistance.

August 8, 1879—Emiliano Zapata is born. Zapata later went on to become the rebel leader who said "It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees." A former sharecropper, he organized and led peasants during the battles of the Mexican Revolution, joining forces with Pancho Villa and others to fight the government of Porfirio Diaz. Zapata supported agrarian reform and land redistribution; his rallying cry was "Land and freedom!"

August 17, 1887—Honorable Marcus Garvey, father of contemporary Afrikan Nationalism was born.

August 15, 1900—Race riots erupt in NYC after a white NYC policeman is killed during a fight with a black man of Afrikan heritage.

August 1906—Afrikan soldiers (in service of Babylon) enraged behind racial slurs and discrimination struck out and wrecked the town of Brownville, Texas.

August 1906—Niagara Movement met at Harpers Ferry, Virginia and issued W.E. Marcus Garvey

DuBois' historic manifesto against racist discrimination in Babylon against Afrikans.

August 1, 1914—Garvey founds Universal Negro Improvement Association, advancing the call for Land, Freedom, and Independence for Afrikan people.

August 23, 1917—Afrikan soldiers in Huston engaged in street skirmishes that left more than seventeen Euro-American racists dead.

August 1, 1920—Gandhi launches the anti-colonial no cooperation movement in India.

August 1920—Over two thousand delegates representing Afrikan from the four corners of the earth gathered in New York for the International Convention of the Negro People of the World, sponsored by UNIA convention issue a bill of rights for Afrikans.

August 10, 1942—The first Japanese American prisoners arrive at a concentration camp in Minidoka, Idaho.

August 1943—Slave revolt took place in Harlem as result of a K-9 shooting a brother defending the honor of Afrikan womanhood. More than 16,000 military and police personnel was required to quell the rebellion.

August 24, 1943—Birth of Russell "Maroon" Shoatz

August 30, 1948—Birth of the late Chicago Black Panther Party Chairman Fred Hampton.

August 8, 1949—Birth of Dr. Mutulu Shakur

August 29, 1961—Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee begins its voter registration drive.

August 1963—190,000 Afrikans (250,000 people all toll) took part in the March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King to petition for the extension of the rights and privileges due to them mandated by the U.S. Constitution.

August 27, 1963—W.E.B. Dubois dies in Ghana.

August 1964—Afrikan launched comparatively large-scale urban slave revolt in the following cities: Jersey City NY, Paterson NJ, Keansburg NJ, Chicago IL, and Philadelphia PA. These slave revolts were for the most part sparked by either police brutality or disrespect shown toward Afrikan womanhood.

August 11-16, 1965— The fires of Watts, a black community in Los Angeles, CA were markers for rebellion for the generation of blacks in the 1960s. These rebellions, staged in response to brutal police attacks on people, cost the lives of 34 people and also almost 20 million dollars worth of property damaged or destroyed. ★

August 16, 1965—Urban revolt took place in Northern Philadelphia.

August 7-8, 1966—Large-scale urban revolt was launched in Lansing, Michigan.

August 28, 1966—Waukegan, Illinois, urban slave revolt launched in response to police brutality.

July 30- August 2, 1967 —Urban slave revolt launched in Milwaukee.

August 19-24, 1967-Comparatively large-scale urban slave revolt was launched in New Haven, Connecticut.

August 25, 1967—FBI circulates internal order to "disrupt" Black Liberation groups, a program that would later be come known as COINTELPRO.

August 5, 1970—The Black Panther party's minister of defense, Huey P. Newton, spent some four years in prison before winning his release on $50,000 bail on this date. It marked his physical return to the party at the time a period of great hope. ★

August 7, 1970—Jonathan Jackson killed in firefight while leading the Marin County Courthouse raid.

August 18, 1971—Capital of Republic of New Afrika attacked by the FBI and Mississippi police.

August 21, 1971—George Jackson shot and killed in San Quentin by tower guards.

August 28, 1971— Black Panthers Jalil Muntaqim and Nuh Washington captured after a midnight shoot-out with San Francisco police.

August 8, 1978—One of the earlier MOVE confrontations. Some nine MOVE men and women were sent to prison for hundreds of years stemming from a deeply flawed trial. MOVE members continue to fight for the release of their imprisoned comrades. MOVE veterans of the August 8 police assault have been in prison for 25+ years in dungeons throughout Pennsylvania. They remain rebellious spirits who oppose a repressive status quo. The spirit of Black August moves through centuries of Black, Indian and multi-cultural resistance. It is an emblem of the spirit of freedom. It is a long smoldering spark of the fire in the hearts of a people, hearts burning and yearning for freedom. ★

August 5, 1987—23 conscientious objectors deliver collective letter of resistance to the apartheid policing by the South African Defense Forces in Cape Town.

August 22, 1989—Black Panther Party co founder Huey P. Newton murdered at the age of 47.

August 17, 1995—Mumia Abu Jamal scheduled for execution; stopped by international peoples resistance.

August 17, 1998—An armed standoff in Gaspe, Canada, between Micmac Indians and the Quebec government over timber rights ends with a compromise.

Editors Note - Some of the original dates descriptions have been expanded and additional dates not found in the original document relevant to the struggle have been added by the editor.

Dates with a ★ at the end of the description are excerpts from a radio broadcast by Mumia Abu Jamal on Black August given May 23, 2003.

BLACK AUGUST PROGRAM

Most standard history books tend to either play down or ignore New African resistance as a factor in the destruction in the slave economy. On the other hand, when one understands New Africans are still an oppressed nation, the reason for such deception becomes clear. Black August contends that not only was such resistance a factor in the destruction of the slave economy, but New African resistance to slavery continues to

inspire New African resistance to national oppression. Herbert Aptheker (the author of "American Negro Slave Revolts") recounts the personal remark of one New African involved in the civil rights struggle:

"From personal experience I can testify that American Negro Slave Revolts made a tremendous impact on those of us in the civil rights and Black Liberation movement. It was the single most effective antidote to the poisonous ideals that blacks had not a history of struggle or that such struggle took the form of non-violent protest. Understanding people like Denmark Vessey, Nat Turner, William Lloyd Garrison etc. provided us with that link to our past that few ever thought existed."

"Black August is a revolutionary concept. Therefore, all revolutionaries, nationalists and others who are committed to ending oppression should actively participate in Black August."

Black August contends that from the very inception of slavery, New Africans huddled illegally to commemorate and draw strength from New African slaves who met their death resisting. Black August asserts that it is only natural for each generation of New Africans faced with the task to liberate the nation, to draw strength and encouragement from each generation of New African warriors that preceded them. It is from such a rich heritage of resistance that Black August developed, committed to continuing the legacy of resistance, vowing to respond to the destruction of colonial oppression with our George Jacksons, Malcolm X's, and Fred Hamptons etc.

New African resistance moved decisively into the 1920s and 1930s. Evidence of this was movements like: The African Blood Brothers, The Share Croppers, The Black Bolsheviks, etc. Unduly there is an incorrect tendency to confine the discussion of African Nationalism to the well-known Garvey movement as the sole manifestation of national consciousness. The Garvey movement was the point of the emerging politics of New African resistance.

In labor, national consciousness, (i.e. literature, jazz, art, etc..) in the struggle for the land, in all areas of politics, like a great

explosion of previously pent-up National Consciousness took place among New Africans.

The sixties was a further example of New African resistance to national oppression. It should be emphasized here that that struggle of non-violence was at that time a strategy of illegality, of danger, of arousing New Africans to direct confrontation with the colonial oppressor. Whether it was a sit-in at a segregated lunch counter or bus station, the movement deliberately broke the colonial law.

Inevitably the anti-colonial struggle moved to a higher level, growing beyond the initial stage of non-violent civil rights protest. Non-violent civil rights strategy was tried and discarded by New Africans, who found that it was a failure, incapable of forcing an entrenched settler's colonial regime to change.

Black August purports that it is important to briefly mention such events to counter the colonial propaganda that the riots of the 1960s was due to anger brought on by over crowdedness and summer heat. Black August asserts that in order for New Africans to arise to the historical task of defending the Nation, it is imperative that New Africans have a historical perspective of themselves resisting colonial oppression.

Black August avers that at a time when the Black Nation is experiencing the destruction of its community through planned gentrification, at a time when the quality of New African life is being blunted through unemployment, prison, drugs, high infant mortality and poverty, the call of New African organization should be one of resistance.

Black August is the antithesis to "celebration" and empty "homage." Black August attempts to place struggle and sacrifice on center stage. In this respect, Black August summons all progressive people who identify with the legacy of resistance to colonial oppression by actively participating in Black August. Thus during the entire month of

August in commemoration of those Africans who have made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of African Liberation and reflect upon the significance of those contributions as well as to draw closer to the continuing necessity for resistance, we embrace the following as tenets to be practiced during Black August.

TENETS OF THE BLACK AUGUST PROGRAM

1. A fast which historically has been used as an expression of personal commitment and resistance. Hence, from the sunrise until evening meal we will abstain from eating.
2. We abstain from consuming any type of intoxicants for the entire month of August. The necessity for this should be self-evident for all serious participants of Black August.
3. We limit our selection of television and radio to educational programs, i.e. news, documentaries and cultural programs, etc.
4. During BA we emphasize political and cultural studies for individuals involved in BA. Participants in BA should pair off with someone else you know to study and share knowledge of African Affairs.
5. As an outward expression of BA we wear a Black arm band on the left arm or wrist as a tribute to those Africans who have died as a result of their sacrifice for African Liberation. The arm band can be worn either on the inside or outside of your clothing.

Black August (BA) is a revolutionary concept. Therefore, all revolutionaries, nationalists and others who are committed to ending oppression should actively participate in Black August. Such participation not only begins to build the bridges of international solidarity, but it is through such solidarity that we strengthen ourselves to struggle for victory.

James "Doc" Holiday # 86555-012

The tradition of fasting during Black August teaches self discipline. A conscious fast is in effect from 6 am to 8 pm. Some other personal sacrifice can be made as well. The sundown meal is traditionally shared whenever possible among comrades. On August 31, a Peoples feast is held and the fast is broken. Black August fasting should serve as a constant reminder of the conditions our people have faced and still confront. Fasting is uncomfortable at times, but it is a helpful to remember all those who have come and gone before us. Ni Nkan Mase, if we stand tall it is because we stand on the shoulders of our many ancestors.

MALCOLM X GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...

This poem was read by Bato and the SQ6 posse at the San Francisco Women's Building on September 20,1997, as part of a commemoration of Attica, George Jackson, and the San Quentin Six. Bato was a member of the San Quentin Six and is active in California Prison Focus.

1.

APPEARS ...a Prisoner in a solitary cell.
One of the longest held.. political prisoners in America:
A People's soldier... Whom... we all -- dearly love.
Last of the SQ6... left inside the prison walls.

Hey! Is he Kung-Fu fighting / and Shadow-boxing in his cell -- ?
-- Keeping pace with phantoms-past.. ?
Daily-exercise.. In keeping-up, his solitary-strength -- in Keeping-On,
Entombed inside the SHU ... at Pelican Bay.

NO WAY ! - Will you ever overcome .. this beautiful brother,
Whose been keeping .. keeping-on...
And When / There's .. no other choice left -- When " Doing life."

WHEN .. THE .. SMOKE .. CLEARS...

You'll see .. X-Prisoner "Ji." -- Got himself Free, June 10th
After 27 years, of California--Prison -- Cap-tiv-ity ...
And Where, COIN-TEL-PRO And the FBI, put him.. For being
A " Dedicated Revol-u-tion-ary..."
-- For waging people's war -- against the State within the State.

NOW / We want to know --

Is this the only Victory -- we're to see? -- It's been long in coming...

NOW .. Free All Political Prisoners ! Free Yogi and Ruchell

WHEN .. THE .. SMOKE .. CLEARS...

Another Brother, looks out ... from Pelican Bay ...
He's been fighting-on / Longer than anyone else, I know.
35 years.. In one long stretch... Brother Ru ! Ruchell Magee...

WHO / Only recently / got himself onto the prison mainline --

2.

For a much-needed change / From prison- sol-it-tary ...
Sole Survivor.. of the Marin County shoot-out... 27 years ago...

WHEN .. THE .. SMOKE.. CLEARS...

Unforgotten... Are, The 3 slain brothers--
Two of them Prisoners from San Quentin --(Bill Christmas/ And James McClain.)
And one .. 17 year-old ... Man-child Jonathan ...

All killed / at the same time..... August 7th, 1970.
Their heroic memory... Lives on.

WHEN .. THE .. SMOKE .. CLEARS...

We'll see, clearly.. 26 years ago..
Our fallen, prison Comrade at .. Q.
Killed-dead / by the state of California
And San Quentin prison guards.....August 21st, 1971

WHEN.. THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS...

We are here... Today.....Sept 20th. 1997...
To remember...and pay our re-volutionary-respects..
To Comrade G... Whom Today we Re-vere in our hearts.

COMRADES' Spirit Lives -- Inspiring... Tens-of-Thousands of prisoners, everyday--
Across the nation .. Who struggle --to stay alive...

Struggle behind walls of instit-tu-tional hate and violence,
Behind // Bars and Barriers of two separate worlds --

Don't Go There.

Behind / Barb-wire of their fraternal-eternal imprisonment--
Prisoners -- for whom we must speak. We Say:

Never Surrender ! ..... Never give up !

And In the name of Comrade G... and other fighters .. fallen
Fight on ! Unless, you Die Inside, Die of old age and neglect --
While in captivity... While Un-Free.

3.

WHEN .. THE .. SMOKE .. CLEARS...

THERE ... THERE .. AND THERE...

YOU SEE ... The Grave-Yard of anonymous headstones --
Prisoners, forgotten.. Unknown... Buried in the ground --
In " Potter's Field," with a broken-end shovel.. to bury you with.

Prisoners who died in confinement-- All alone--
With no one to mourn them.. nor say farewell.

Greetings To You This Day.

Prisoners For whom we speak ... in saying --
You are remembered... and recognized ..... Prisoners All.

We Lift our voices.. For The Dead / Who live-on in memory.
Live within " the prison struggle of liberation."

WHEN.. THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS ...

None of us are Free
While state-terrorism takes it's toll --
On those.. already defeated by the state and Who --
WARS AGAINST ... Our imprisoned family.

WHEN.. THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS...

Each of us recalls --
Our special Comrades, Family and Friends..... " Still Doing time."
Prisoners left to languish... Trapped by state tyranny --
Inside / each Cell and Cage.. Where, we ourselves have once lived.

Don't Go There.

Prisoners who breathe through us / Outside.
Prisoners whose words.. will not be heard -- Unless,
Repeated and Completed by each of us...By any means .. necessary.

Stay Alive ! Don't Go Back ! Never Say Die !

WHEN .. THE .. SMOKE .. CLEARS...

4.

We urge you on... by any means -- at your disposal.

VENCEREMOS... Overcome... So we can declare --
With Revolutionary -- Sincerity,
That We will Overcome.. some day... Venceremos...

-- Already Knowing, in our locked-up hearts..
That many Inside / Will forever remain / Inside --
Will not survive... and cannot continue to live .. much longer --

Comrades who remain Lost in a tomb. Who cannot escape --
Whose cries are blotted-out.
-- Prisoners .. Never again .. to see the light of day ---
Nor the stars at night ... See you ... nor I.....Don't Go There.

It is a very dark place.

WHEN ... THE... SMOKE... CLEARS...

Attica Is there. It has not gone away --

Attica still cry's out for Justice..... Sept. 13th, 1971.
26 years late.. If you were <u>not</u> born yet...
-- Bless Your Heart.
ATTICA Looms up... On the horizon of our collective minds
-- The state-massacre, that took place there..... Only yesterday..
And Which / We must not.. ever forget.

The Attica Comrades --
Who were beaten, tortured, shot and slain on National TV --
As we watched the horror-show ... of Life in America, during the 70's.

ATTICA Lives this moment.. within our minds.
The Attica families... Feel the same pain today --
-- Same as When.. this State-atrocity.. Occurred.. And Rockefeller said:
--So What ! And we say: Fuck You Back.

WHEN... THE... SMOKE.. CLEARS ...

Remember ... All the fallen Comrades from that time,
From Attica... From other times...

5.

From other prisons and places of confinement--
From Places nobody knows the names of --- Nor where they are

Don't Go There.

To our imprisoned-comrades / Past and Present --

We greet you all. Every single one of you...

GREETINGS... From our world to your world --

GREETINGS... To you.. From our Hearts and Soul...

WHEN .. THE .. SMOKE.. CLEARS

Your memory is the printed word.. we read and write today,
Through.. those of us.. who carry on -- Struggling to move ahead...
Lest we too, again ...

Land in prison..... Never See The Light Of Day.
Die at the hands of the common oppressor ...
Die ...for having remained silent too long --
For not... Fighting back.....Fight Back !

State Power..... We challenge
State Power.....We seize
State Power .....That already has grown too much..
To our mutual, and utter.. det-tri-ment.

What Do We Say ?

FIGHT BACK ! Fight Back !

Corrupt State Power --
That has already killed us.. too much.

State Power.. Which has drunk our blood -- Broken our Heads and Bones.
Erased our lives.. / Elim--in--ated our numbers--
Taken us to early graves...

State Power... Which gains.. unacceptable strength.. over us..

-- Tries, defeating us at every turn...
-- And as explained .. In " Blood in my Eye."
Blood in My Eye. Written in the blood of Comrade G.

6.

WHEN... THE... SMOKE... CLEARS...

Our recent.. collective-loss.. of Brother Nate --
Is still.. fresh in mind.

X-Prisoner and People's lawyer--
Fighting for Justice here.. in the Bay Area.

His loyalties and sympathy were always --
With the oppressed masses, everywhere...
With Prisoners, everywhere--
With You and I.

WHEN... THE... SMOKE.. CLEARS...

FROM US: From Myself: Sundiata, David, Dorsey, Thuh,
Michael, M'jumbe, Bill,
From Others... Un-mentioned here -- But unforgotten...
Who grasped your hand.. one last time at the end ...
In Final Solidarity...

Solidarity Forever...

WHEN... THE... SMOKE... CLEARS...

" Rock-on " is remembered: This forgotten prison-brother... Was
there, with us --
At San Quentin.. that fatal August day when "Comrade G" was
Assassinated.
Louie Lopez.. Stood at the door of the AC --
Along with Yog, Suni ... and others --
While Comrade's blood ran out-- Ran Out...
Ran out ... Onto the prison's asphalt.. On a Saturday afternoon...

" Rock-on " passed away.. in prison.. Last Father's Day.
And When-- in remembering... I was late to his funeral...
But .. You had my solidarity... always.. You too this day are re-
membered.

WHEN .. THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS ...

Our hearts heave a sigh... Hurt inside.
For what has .. passed-us-by .. these many years --
20 - 30- Years .. in Past memory.. in Blurring.. Fading memory ...

7.

Old soldiers.. Who slowly become old ... with UN-failing memory
For a Fallen Comrade... Remembering things... to remember....
Until Death Bites the Dust.

When / Many times.. we were unable to change the tide ..
Nor make much difference.. When solidarity...
Was all, we could ask and hope for.

Solidarity Forever ... Even after you Die.

For all those.. Who died in struggle and fell --
Fell by the wayside of indifference...

You made a Great Difference to each of us...

Each of us with his own memory ..
For those Who Died.. Forgotten and Unknown.

WHEN .. THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS...

In final.. Those prisoners ...Who were terminated by an enemy-state
The enemy.. who still, wars on us in the name of --

Law and Order. And Corrupt Power.
And because.. of racist hatred -- Patriotic hypnosis...
And other things.. Unworthy...
Of our Mention... And Attention...

For those who die.. Each day in prison...
Or wait.. to die .. on Death-Rows across the nation...
You are not forgotten. You live on through us... Prison Revolutionaries
For all the dead we speak --
For those alive... We salute you.

Stay Alive ! Continue the fight !

Struggle day-to-day...

Fight ! Under the hard-won banner -- Of Black August...

WHEN.. THE.. SMOKE .. CLEARS

8.

Black August.. Where and When -- People gave their life --
And From/ Where/ We've come ... Each of us..
Finding our way out of IMPRISONMENT.

Let Black August ... be inspiration for all--
Both inside and outside prison ..

When we must NEVER ..... Will never forget...

When standing Naked and Powerless...
-- When Going through, the degrading motions ...
Of the thousands, of in-prison "strip-searches "
And Which, is .. everyday prison life.. Undignified...
Dehumanizing --

Something ... Never to Forget..... Something We Will Never Forget..

Don't Go There.

Become Prison Revolutionaries --
If you are to survive... Survive intact.. And walk with your head up--

Within the Police State.

WHEN ... THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS...

Comrade's spirit.. will fortify and encourage us -- on.
Will guide us in moving forward-- even when standing alone--
In Solitary Confinement.
But Standing in Solidarity.

SOLIDARITY FOREVER.

--- And against the common enemy.

WHEN .. THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS

For all Who resist --

No matter our personal agenda.. Name.. Race.. Color or aspiration.

Fight-together.. Against the common enemy ..
And love your imprisoned brother.

9.

Stop the Killing and Come Together.
---Together... We will Overcome,

VENCEREMOS... Never give up the struggle --

Or you die... Dying for nothing ... Anon-nymous-ly.

Break Out ! Stay alive to fight another Day !

In the spirit of our mutual Comrade --
Who gave up his life -- For his revolutionary beliefs.
la luta continua...

WHEN ..THE .. SMOKE.. CLEARS...

In the name of prisoners, everywhere --
And Yet .. to be born.
Yet to be taken by the state from our communities--
And from our homes...

The struggle is never over ! Never Done..... Never lost.

Venceremos. VENCEREMOS !

Palante ! Palante ! -- as the Boriqua comrades and --
-- " Prisoners-of-War " say -- from their eternal-prison cells across the land.

WHEN., THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS

Palante ! Forward Comrades! --
The war of prison liberation has yet to be won --
Has yet to be lost ... Is still being fought --

In every prison -- in every dungeon hole --
In every locked-mind that cannot see the strat-te-gy

---Of Mass Struggle ! Venceremos...

Venceremos !

10.
WHEN ..THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS

-- Where the imprisoned spirit.. has yet to be broken by state oppression,
Can be sustained and revived...

By you and I. And by SOLIDARITY.

By everyone here. We urged You on...
By OUR Common Revolutionary Beliefs...

IF YOU DIE YOU DIE ... But never Surrender ...
Never make the enemy stronger.. Who oppresses us all...

Never give up. Never Retreat.
Never roll-over. Never Debrief.

WHEN... THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS..

We Will Be There...
We will be there..

For those... Who no longer are...

WHEN .. THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS..

To Each.. His own contribution ... His own Conscience...

Never give up.. Never back down.

Make your personal contribution ... to the struggle.. Your life's work.

And Stay strong.

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...
WHEN.. THE.. SMOKE.. CLEARS ...
when the smoke clears ...

The enemy has many masks and the ideologies that drive it are centuries old now, the gluttonous appetite for money and power of those addicted. I will not give up and it's not over until it's over. Speak, organize, demonstrate, pray, help the poor and oppressed, be a good example, and most of all "don't ever give up!"
Leonard Peltier #89637-132 Native American Political Prisoner

REQUIRED READING

NOT LISTED IN ANY PARTICULAR ORDER AND BY NO MEANS COMPLETE

1. Blood in my Eye By George Jackson
2. Live From Death Row By Mumia Abu Jamal
3. Assata By Assata Shakur
4. Miseducation of the Negro By Dr. Carter G. Woodson
5. A Peoples History of the United States By Howard Zinn
6. Soledad Brother By George Jackson
7. Revolutionary Suicide By Huey P. Newton
8. The Confessions of Nat Turner and Related Documents By Nat Turner
9. Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl by Harriet A. Jacobs
10. Lies My Teacher Told Me : Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong by James W. Loewen
11. To Purge This Land With Blood: A Biography of John Brown
12. In the Spirit of Crazy Horse By Peter Matthiessen
13. Agents Of Repression: The FBI's Secret War Against the Black Panther Party & the American Indian Movement By Ward Churchill *Editors Note - Any Ward Churchill book is highly recommended, he has close to a dozen.*
14. Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West By Dee Alexander Brown
15. Hauling Up the Morning: Writings and Art by Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in the United States By Tim Blunk & Ray Luc Levasseur
16. We are our own Liberators By former Black Panther Party/ Black Liberation Army member Jalil Abdul Muntaqim
17. A Lifetime in the Struggle By David Gilbert
18. Black Boy and Native Son both by Richard Wright
19. Jailbreak out of History - The rebiography of Harriet Tubman
20. Wretched of the Earth By Frantz Fanon

THIS BOOKLET IS PUBLISHED BY

THE BOOKS 4 PRISONERS CREW

P.O. BOX 19065

CINCINNATI, OH 45219

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